

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MADRID 08493 251058Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W
-----047074 251235Z /21
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5480

S E C R E T MADRID 08493

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT ALSO PLS PASS TO SECDEF WASHDC AS ACTION IMMEDIATE
AND CIA WASHDC AS INFO IMMEDIATE

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MILI, SP, US (GUTIERREZ MELLADO, D. MANUEL)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEFENSE MINISTER GUTIERREZ MELLADO:
REQUEST TO VISIT US ANTI-TERRORIST FACILITIES

REF: MADRID 08476

1. APART FROM CONSIDERATIONS MENTIONED REFTTEL, ONE VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR BEARING ON GUTIERREZ MELLADO'S REQUEST TO VISIT AN ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT IS UNDOUBTEDLY RELATED TO THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE ARMED FORCES AT THE MOMENT.
2. GUTIERREZ MELLADO'S VISIT OCCURS IN THE WAKE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASSASSINATION OF PURELY MILITARY FIGURES IN 40 YEARS. ARMED FORCES GREATLY UPSET OVER THIS AND PREVIOUS ACTIONS OF TERRORISTS, WHO MANY KEY OFFICERS BELIEVE ARE BEING PAMPERED BY GOVERNMENT INSTEAD OF BEING DEALT WITH FIRMLY. FOR MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO VISIT US AND NOT SHOW INTEREST IN ANTI-TERRORIST ACTION WOULD TEND CONFIRM TO
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PAGE 02 MADRID 08493 251058Z

SUCH OFFICERS THAT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ATTACH SPECIAL IMPORT-
ANCE TO TERRORIST THREAT AND ACTIVITIES. THUS, FOR HIS
RELATIONS WITH THE ARMED FORCES, EVEN IF FOR NO OTHER REASON,
IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR GUTIERREZ MELLADO TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE
INTEREST IN ANTI-TERRORISM. VISIT TO AN ANTI-TERRORIST
UNIT THEREFORE TAKES ON AN IMPORTANCE BEYOND WHATEVER
FOLLOW-UP, IF ANY, MIGHT OCCUR.

3. IF REQUEST FOR VISIT HAS TO BE DENIED, HOPE THAT
GUTIERREZ MELLADO CAN BE GIVEN EXPLANATION WHICH WOULD
BE CONSIDERED SOLID AND UNDERSTANDABLE, EVEN IF NOT
AGREEABLE TO ARMED FORCES. TODMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSES.

SECRET

NNN

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